

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK

Policy Council Minutes November 27, 2002

Members/Representatives Present:

- Susan Melanson, Children's Network
- Tom Prendergast, Department of Public Health
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Terry Kramer, Department of Behavioral Health
- Mandi Batalo, County Libraries
- Eric Frykman, Department of Public Health
- Jane Lawrence, Public Defender Office
- Ray Wingerd, Chief of Probation
- Mel Rinewalt, Probation Department
- Stacy Iverson, First 5 of San Bernardino
- Denise Walker, PERC
- Bruce Davis, 3rd District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Don Larkin, First 5 of San Bernardino
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Honorable Rex Victor, Juvenile Court
- Cathy Cimbalo, Director of Children's Services
- Andy Gruchy, Department of Behavioral Health
- Joyce Lewis, Department of Behavioral Health
- Gerald Farber, Public Defender Office
- Charles Adams, Community Services Department
- Roberta York, Preschool Services Department
- Cory Nelsen, Child Support Services
- Julian Weaver, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- Clark Morrow, San Bernardino Sheriff's Dept.
- Ed Rowe, Children's Network
- Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Network Policy Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. and convened by Honorable Rex Victor in the Citrus Room, fifth floor, County Government Center.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Honorable Rex Victor welcomed those present and self-introductions were made.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as read.

3.0 Approval of September 25, 2002 and October 23, 2002 Minutes

The September 25, 2002 and October 23, 2002 minutes were approved as submitted.

4.0 Information Items

4.1 Children's Fund Report

Rebecca Stafford reported they are in full swing for Christmas. They took over the Sugar Plum project for Department of Children's Services which added an additional 5,000 children to be adopted. As of this point, 4,000 children have been adopted. Gifts for 1,000 children are still needed. Toys for Tots boxes have been placed around in the community to collect gifts. So far, 83 families have been adopted. The goal is to collect in donations 40,000 toys.

4.2 CSOC Update

Andy Gruchy gave a brief synopsis from a meeting he recently attended in Sacramento on the Governor's proposal as far as CSOC stands. A plan was submitted to the state two weeks ago, with approval expected in the middle of December. The CSOC has two teams up and functioning. The goal is to address behavioral health needs of families that are low income receiving Medi-Cal. The program also has connections with the juvenile justice and Juvenile Hall. Most of the funding has gone for staffing, and assessments/evaluations of children. The goal is to have the current CSOC program sustain itself.

Kent Paxton gave the following update: Back to 1977 staff has been dedicated to working with the highest risk children for Behavioral Health and Department of Children's Services. A steering committee is working again on the MOU, which had been put on hold due to the State budget. The final document will be brought to this group.

5.0 Discussion/Action Items

5.1 Discussion and Action as requested to forward a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for a letter of support to the State Foster Care Rates Bureau to increase the Terra Manor Group Home from an RCL 10 to 12

Kent Paxton referred everyone to a letter in his or her packet. The Interagency Placement Committee for San Bernardino County is recommending a rate increase from RCL 10 to an RCL 12 for this group home located in Bloomington. This group home serves girls from ages 6 to 12 who have emotional and behavioral problems. This group home prefers to accept only children from this county. **ACTION: The members unanimously approved the item to recommend the Board of Supervisors approve a letter of support to the State Foster Care Rates Bureau for the Terra Manor Group Home.**

Meetings are being set now to look at the need for RCL 14 beds in this county. Another request arrived too late for this meeting for an increase from another group home. This request will be addressed by the Policy Council Executive Committee due to the timing.

5.2 Discussion and Approval of the Children's Policy Council Priorities for 2003

Denise Walker presented the group with the information below:

GROUP 1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation Description	Rationale	Anticipated Outcome
Avoid duplication and increase interface	More comprehensive local continuum of care. Anticipate reduced funding	1. More/better coordination/more compliance 2. More effective use of funds
Placement resources – Medical homes, drug and alcohol, Level 14 (out-of-home care)		1.Increase access of existing group home beds in county for San Bernardino County Children. 2.Reduce out-of-county placements & associated costs 3.Local treatment more effective

Discussion: The recommendation stands for itself as read for group 1.

GROUP 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation Description	Rationale	Anticipated Outcome
Each discipline to provide plan on how they will target parenting (voluntary and mandatory) "Wraparound for Parents"	Primary determinate of Children's outcomes	1.Services more available to parents 2.Reductions in school failure, abuse, improved child well-being measures, etc.
Perinatal substance abuse more access to services early and (health and behavioral health)	Interrupt cycle of ongoing health/behavioral health problem	1.Reduce Incidence of Drug Exposed Infants, 2.Better parenting, 3.Lower abuse, delinquency, and behavioral health issues

Discussion: Important to work with parents to provide them with more; prevention, intervention, and parenting skills. It was suggested to especially target parenting teens that are in the system.

GROUP 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation Description	Rationale	Anticipated Outcome
<p>1. Establish a cross-agency fiscal team whose job is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide technical assistance to CNPC b) Assist CNPC to make informed decisions regarding blending and maximizing use of funding and resources. 	<p>Would allow us to enlist agency fiscal staff to help us eliminate "silos" based upon funding issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthens collaboration 2. Makes better use of resources 3. Share responsibility for fiscal priorities
<p>Define a comprehensive continuum of service for high /multiple need children & families. Identify gaps & create a comprehensive system of services including community-based resource network.</p>	<p>Allow us to serve children/families more effectively, timely based on need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease Interagency friction 2. Increase positive outcomes for children/families share responsibility with community

Discussion: The funding is to be **braided** and not **blended**. The main focus is to identify gaps and community services.

GROUP 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation Description	Rationale	Anticipated Outcome
Conduct a needs and asset assessment	Improve efficiency and effectiveness by determining where needs to be focused, and identifying unnecessary duplication	Strategic deployment of limited resources
Conduct joint interdepartmental strategic planning.	Need collective commitment and buy-in. More bang for the buck	Create blueprints for focusing services for children

Discussion: The main focus is to assess services and ability to provide services in conjunction with the funding cutbacks. It was suggested to have needs drive the planning of priorities.

Kent will work with Denise Walker to make the recommendations into clearer statements with outcome goals. Kent will bring back a list with services being provided in the county and suggestions for services that could compliment existing services. It was suggested to start work with the 0 to 5 populations and expand from there. Another focus could be on parenting. **ACTION: This item to be deferred until the January meeting when a list can be presented with further discussion. After further discussion, a policy motion will be made.**

5.3 Discussion and Approval of the Children's Network 2002 Annual Report

Susan Melanson mentioned she placed three final draft copies of the Children's Network 2002 Annual Report on the tables for participants' Final review.

Susan wanted to make sure all the data and information was correct for the specific departments. **ACTION: A motion was made to accept the annual report as presented.**

Susan also referred everyone to her memo, "Child Abuse Prevention and Safe Kids Summer 2002 Campaigns". Susan joined Children's Network in 1999 and has seen significant changes in funding, and activities for Child Abuse Prevention. The newest component is the Drowning Prevention Network recently formed with year long activities and efforts. That group will be hosting a conference in February for professionals and first responders.

A large part of the funding for Child Abuse Prevention comes from the State, OCAP (Office of Child Abuse Prevention) with the State recognizing our county as a leader in child abuse prevention activities. The Safe Kids Summer Event Schedule shows attendance at 150 events, and we are sure our materials were distributed far beyond those listed. There are 3 groups that plan the Family Celebration Picnics and are now considered Child Abuse Prevention Councils. Today Susan delivered a memo to the Board of Supervisors for their signature to go out to the Cities, Special Districts, and Fire Departments inviting them to become more involved in the Family Celebration Picnics. It was suggested that possibly some of the Cities, Special Districts, Fire Departments, etc. could be approached to become sponsors of our events and assisting with some funds.

It has been anticipated that with the budget cuts the Child Abuse Prevention Activities for the year 2003 may have to be scaled down unless we are able to get more in-kind support from the community. Susan thanked everyone for his or her participation. Kent thanked Susan for all efforts for the Child Abuse Prevention Council.

6.0 Other

Honorable Rex Victor mentioned a report he saw in a local newspaper that was negative about the prevention efforts for juveniles in relation to crime in this county. There was further discussion about the categories of services provided through juvenile justice such as Juvenile Hall. There was also some discussion about truancy issues with juveniles.

Kent mentioned that the Children's Network Annual Report can be used to give the data and reports of the efforts going on in the county to reduce infant mortality, teen pregnancy, child abuse, delinquency, etc.

There was further discussion about prevention funding, how it is spent and how it affects outcomes and prevention efforts.

It was mentioned that a small number of school districts receive funding for after school programs, especially at the high school level. It appears that approximately 50% to 60% of the student body participates in after school activities at the high school level. Ray Wingerd, Chief of Probation and Dr. Fischer, County Superintendent of Schools will address the issue of youth violence in this county in a press conference.

A suggestion was made to send a copy of the Children's Network 2002 Annual Report to; the Sierra Health Foundation in Sacramento, elected officials, and the local media.

Cory Nelsen presented a gift certificate for \$25 from his Child Support Office to be passed onto Children's Fund.

7.0 Public Comment

8.0 Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 22, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Williams
Children's Network Policy Council Recording Secretary